

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A service providing apparatus for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses[[,]] via a network ~~the service providing apparatus functioning as a shared server on a network~~, said service providing apparatus comprising:

[[first]] (a) storing means for storing a plurality of [[groups]] chat rooms, a list of available content, and content;

[[second]] (b) receiving means:

(i) for receiving [[a group]] participation request requests transmitted from any of a plurality of information processing apparatuses to include a corresponding one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in one of [[the]] said plurality of [[groups]] chat rooms, ~~the group request selecting a respective one of the plurality of groups, the group request transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses belonging to one of the plurality of groups, and~~

(ii) for receiving [[a]] content request requests transmitted from any of the plurality of information processing apparatuses ~~belonging to participating in said~~ one of the plurality of [[groups]] chat rooms, the content request including a selection from the list of available content, and

(iii) for receiving text messages transmitted from any of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

[[third]] (c) acquiring means for acquiring [[data]] the content ~~coordinated with requested by the content request requests;~~

[[fourth]] (d) transmitting means for simultaneously transmitting to all of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms:

(i) ~~for transmitting the [[data]] content acquired by said [[third]]~~

~~acquiring means simultaneously to all of those of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and belonging to a same group;~~

~~fifth means for receiving data transmitted from the service providing apparatus simultaneously to all of the invention processing apparatuses belonging to the same group, the data including a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and belonging to the same group to each of the information processing apparatuses in the same groups; and~~

~~sixth means for transmitting:~~

(ii) ~~a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus shared server and participating in belonging to the same group said one of the plurality of chat rooms; and~~

(iii) ~~said text messages received by said receiving means to each of the information processing apparatuses in the same group.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The service providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

(a) the [[data]] content requested by the content requests is music [[data,]] and

(b) the selection is particular music data.

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A service providing method ~~for a service providing apparatus~~ for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses ~~accessing a single shared server on~~ via a network, said service providing method comprising:

(a) a storage ~~controlling~~ step of ~~controlling~~ storing a plurality of [[groups]] ~~chat rooms~~, a list of available content, and content in a service providing apparatus;

(b) a first reception step of receiving in the service providing apparatus a [[group]] participation request to include a ~~corresponding~~ one of [[the]] a plurality of information processing apparatuses in one of [[the]] said plurality of [[groups]] ~~chat rooms~~; ~~the group request selecting a respective one of the plurality of groups, and for~~

(c) a second reception step of receiving in the service providing apparatus a content request transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses belonging to said one of the of the plurality of [[groups]] ~~chat rooms~~, the content request including a selection from the list of available content, ~~the group request and the content request received by the single shared server~~;

(d) a third reception step of receiving text messages transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

(e) an acquisition step of acquiring in the service providing apparatus the content requested by data ~~coordinated with~~ the content request to the single shared server;

(f) a communication step of transmitting from the service providing apparatus the [[data]] content acquired by the acquisition step simultaneously ~~from the single shared server~~ to all ~~of these~~ of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the ~~single shared server~~ service providing apparatus and belonging to a same group participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms; and

(g) a transmission step of simultaneously transmitting the content acquired in said acquisition step, a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus shared server and belonging to participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms, and the text messages the same group to each of the information processing apparatuses in the same group said one of the plurality of chat rooms.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium on which a computer-readable program for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses accessing a shared server on a network is stored, [[the]] said program comprising:

(a) a storage ~~controlling~~ step of controlling storing a plurality of [[groups]] chat rooms, a list of available content, and content;

(b) a first reception step of receiving in a shared server a [[group]] participation request transmitted from any of a plurality of information processing apparatuses to include a ~~corresponding~~ one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in one of [[the]] said plurality of [[groups]] chat rooms; ~~the group request selecting a respective one of the plurality of groups, the group request transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses belonging to one of the plurality of groups, and for~~

(c) a second reception step of receiving a content request transmitted from any of the plurality of information processing apparatuses belonging to participating in said one of the plurality of [[groups]] chat rooms, the content request including a selection from the list of available content;

(d) a third reception step of receiving text messages transmitted from any of the plurality of information processing apparatuses participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

(e) an acquisition step of acquiring ~~data coordinated with~~ the content requested by the

content request;

(f) a communication step of transmitting the [[data]] content acquired by the acquisition step simultaneously to all of ~~these of~~ the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and belonging to participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms ~~a same group~~; and

(g) a transmission step of simultaneously transmitting the content acquired in said acquisition steps, a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and ~~belonging to the same group~~ participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms, and the text messages to each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses [[in]] currently accessing said one of the plurality of chat rooms ~~the same group~~.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus for accessing a service providing apparatus functioning as a shared server, which provides services on a network, together with other information processing apparatuses, said information processing apparatus comprising:

[[first]] (a) inputting means for inputting access information into a single window of a media player configured to access [[the]] a service-providing apparatus shared server to select and participate in one of a plurality of [[groups]] chat rooms;

[[second]] (b) display control means for controlling display of a list of available content transmitted from the service-providing apparatus shared server in the single window of the media player;

[[third]] (c) selecting means for selecting content from the list of available content in the single window of the media player and requesting the shared server service-providing apparatus for transmission of to transmit the selected content to [[said]] an information processing apparatus ~~belonging to~~ participating in said one of the plurality of [[groups]] chat

rooms and all of the other information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in shared server belonging to a same group said one of the plurality of chat rooms by activating a command in the single window of the media player;

[[fourth]] (d) receiving means:

(i) for receiving the selected content [[data]] transmitted from the ~~service providing apparatus~~ shared server simultaneously to all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in belonging to the same group said one of the plurality of chat rooms;[[,]]

(ii) for receiving ~~the data including~~ a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and ~~belonging to participating in the same~~ said one of the plurality of chat rooms group to each of the information processing apparatuses in the same group; and

(iii) for receiving text messages transmitted from the shared server to all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

[[fifth]] (e) displaying means for displaying the list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and ~~belonging to participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms the same group; and~~

[[sixth]] (f) reproduction controlling ~~control~~ means for reproducing the [[data]] received content, the list, and the text messages.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein:

(a) the list of available content is a table listing available music data provided from the service providing apparatus[[,]] and

(b) ~~the data is particular~~ music data ~~corresponding~~ corresponds to the selected content.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus for accessing a service providing apparatus functioning as a single shared server, which provides services on a network, together with other information processing apparatuses, said information processing method comprising:

(a) an inputting step of inputting access information into a single window of a media player configured to access ~~for accessing~~ a single shared server ~~of the service providing apparatus~~ to select and participate in one of a plurality of [[groups]] chat rooms;

(b) a display controlling step of controlling display of a list of available content transmitted from the single shared server ~~of the service providing apparatus~~ in the single window of the media player;

(c) a ~~requesting~~ selecting step of selecting content from the list of available content in the single window of the media player and requesting the single shared server ~~of the service providing apparatus for transmission of~~ to transmit the selected content to [[said]] ~~information processing apparatus belonging to one of the plurality of groups and all of the~~ [[other]] information processing apparatuses currently accessing the single shared server belonging to a same group and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

(d) a transmission step of simultaneously transmitting a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the single shared server and belonging to ~~the same group~~ said one of the plurality of chat rooms to each of the information processing apparatuses currently participating in the same group said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

(e) a ~~reception~~ receiving step of receiving [[data]] content, text messages, and a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms transmitted from the single shared server of ~~the service providing apparatus~~ to all of the information processing apparatuses ~~belonging to the same group currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms, the data including a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and belonging to the same group to each of the information processing apparatuses in the same group;~~

(f) a display step of displaying the list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the single shared server and ~~belonging to the same group currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;~~ and

(g) a reproduction step of reproducing the [[data]] content, the text messages, and the list.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium on which a computer-readable program for causing an information processing apparatus to access a service providing apparatus functioning as a shared server, which provides services on a network, together with other information processing apparatuses, [[the]] said program comprising:

(a) an inputting step of inputting access information ~~for accessing the service providing apparatus~~ into a single window of a media player configured to access a shared server to select and participate in one of a plurality of chat rooms ~~groups into a single window of a media player configured to access the service providing apparatus;~~

(b) a display controlling step of controlling display of a list of available content transmitted from the shared server ~~service providing apparatus~~ in the single window of the media player;



(c) a ~~requesting~~ selecting step of selecting content from the list of available content in the single window of the media player and requesting the ~~service providing apparatus for transmission of shared server to transmit~~ the selected content to ~~[[said]]~~ an information processing apparatus ~~belonging to~~ currently participating in said one of the plurality of ~~[[groups]]~~ chat rooms and all of the other information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server ~~belonging to a same group and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms~~ by activating a command in the single window of the media player;

(d) a transmission step of simultaneously transmitting a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms ~~belonging to the same group~~ to each of the information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms ~~in the same group~~;

(e) a ~~reception~~ receiving step of receiving:

(i) the selected content ~~[[data]]~~ transmitted from the ~~service providing apparatus shared server~~ to all of the information processing ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

(ii) ~~belonging to the same group, the data including~~ a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and ~~belonging to the same group to each of the information processing apparatuses in the same group~~ participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms; and

(iii) text messages sent from any of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in one of the plurality of chat rooms;

(f) a display step of displaying the list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and ~~belonging to the same group~~ currently

participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms; and

(g) a reproduction step of reproducing the [[data]] content and the text messages.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The program storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the [[requesting]] selecting step includes activating a command by activating a play button in the single window of the media player.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the command is a play button in the single window of the media player.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A service providing apparatus for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses, the service providing apparatus functioning as a shared server on a network, said service providing apparatus comprising:

(a) a storage unit configured to store a plurality of [[groups]] chat rooms, a list of available content, and content;

(b) a receiving unit;

(i) configured to receive a ~~group request~~ participation requests to include a corresponding one of [[the]] a plurality of information processing apparatuses in one of the plurality of chat rooms groups, the group request selecting a respective one of the plurality of groups, the group request participation requests transmitted from any of [[the]] a plurality of information processing apparatuses belonging to participating in said one of [[the]] said plurality of [[groups]] chat rooms,

(ii) configured to and for receiving a receive content request requests transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses ~~belonging to~~

participating in one of [[the]] said plurality of [[groups]] chat rooms, the content ~~request~~ requests including a selection from the list of available content; and

(iii) configured to receive text messages transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

(c) an acquisition unit configured to acquire data-coordinated-with the content requested by the content request requests;

(d) a communication unit configured to transmit the [[data]] content acquired by said acquisition unit and the text messages simultaneously to all of these-of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and belonging to a same group participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms; and

(e) a transmitter configured to transmit simultaneously;

(i) a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the of chat rooms belonging to the same group to each of the information processing apparatuses in the same group said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

(ii) the content acquired by the acquisition unit; and

(iii) the text messages received by the receiving unit.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The service providing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

(a) the [[data]] content is music data[.,] and

(b) the selection is particular music data.

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus for accessing a service providing apparatus functioning as a shared server, which provides services on a network, together with other information processing apparatuses, said information processing apparatus comprising:

(a) an input unit configured to input access information into a single window of a media player configured to access ~~the service providing apparatus~~ a shared server to select and participate in one of a plurality of ~~[[groups]]~~ chat rooms;

(b) a display control unit configured to control display of a list of available content transmitted from the ~~service providing apparatus~~ shared server in the single window of the media player;

(c) a ~~requesting~~ selecting unit configured to select content from the list of available content in the single window of the media player and ~~requesting to request the service providing apparatus for transmission of~~ shared server to transmit the selected content to ~~[[said]]~~ an information processing apparatus ~~belonging to~~ participating in said one of the plurality of ~~[[group]]~~ chat rooms and all of the other information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server ~~belonging to a same group~~ and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms by activating a command in the single window of the media player;

(d) a transmitting unit configured to transmit simultaneously a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and ~~belonging to the same group~~ participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms to each of the information processing apparatuses in ~~the same group~~ said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

(e) a reception unit configured to receive ~~simultaneously~~;

(i) content ~~[[data]]~~ transmitted from the shared server service  
~~providing apparatus~~ to all of the information processing apparatuses ~~belonging~~  
~~to the same group~~ participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms, the  
~~data including~~

(ii) a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently  
accessing the shared server and ~~belonging to the same group~~ participating in  
said one of the plurality of chat rooms; and

(iii) text messages

to each of the information processing apparatuses in participating in  
said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

(f) a display configured to display the list of all of the information processing  
apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and belonging to the same group  
participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms; and

(g) a reproduction control unit configured to reproduce the ~~[[data]]~~ content, the list,  
and the text messages.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to  
claim 15, wherein:

(a) the list of available content is a table listing available music data provided from  
the ~~service providing apparatus,~~ shared server and

(b) the data is particular music data corresponding to the selected content.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to  
claim 15, wherein the command is a play button in the single window of the media player.

Claim 18 (New): A service providing apparatus for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses via a network, said service providing apparatus comprising:

(a) a provision unit configured to provide a plurality of information processing apparatuses with a chat room;

(b) a reception unit configured:

(i) to receive text messages from any of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in the chat room and

(ii) receive a content request transmitted from any of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in the chat room;

(c) an acquisition unit configured to acquire the requested content in response to reception of the content request; and

(d) a transmission unit configured:

(i) to transmit the received text messages to all of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in the chat room and

(ii) to transmit, when the reception unit receives the content request, the acquired content to all of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in the chat room.